

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jim Patterson on July 14, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

23. (Currently Amended) A method for providing restricted security distribution instructions to a transfer agent in a distribution of securities from a Venture Capitalist to a plurality of participants comprising:

receiving distribution information from a Venture Capitalist ("VC") in electronic form, the distribution information including data indicating for each participant in the distribution a name, an identification number, and a number of allocated securities;

importing the distribution information into a database system;

matching participants identified in the distribution information to participant information previously entered in the database system;

associating each respective participant in the distribution information with a plurality of contacts from which instructions regarding a disposition of the allocated securities to each respective participant can be obtained;

indicating a plurality of contacts to be contacted to obtain distribution instructions for associated participants;

sorting the plurality of contacts in an order of urgency;

contacting the plurality of contacts in order of urgency to obtain the distribution instructions, such that contacts associated with more exigent items are contacted before contacts associated with less exigent items;

storing the distribution instructions received from the plurality of contacts in the database system;

generating a report including received distribution instructions for the participants in the distribution; and

providing the report to a transfer agent.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of scrubbing the received information prior to the importing step.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of matching participants comprises the steps of:

identifying previously stored records in the database system containing matching identification numbers;

indicating differences between data in identified records and the distribution data received from the VC; and

indicating participants in the distribution for which no matching previously stored record was found.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of defining distribution restrictions for a particular participant.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of indicating comprises the step of dynamically indicating the plurality of contacts for participants in the distribution and a contact status for the indicated contacts.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of upon the selection of an indicated contact indicating all open items for which the contact must be contacted.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the contacting comprises directing a human operator to manually contact the plurality of contacts.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising:
determining if a block sale of securities is associated with the distribution;
locating one or more participants in the distribution who wish to sell at least some of their securities from the distribution; and
affording the one or more participants an option to designate a number of their securities to be sold in the block.

31. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of generating is performed in response to the receipt of distribution instructions for at least one participant.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising:
granting the transfer agent custody of the allocated securities for at least a limited period of time, wherein the allocated securities are associated with corresponding

participants, and further wherein the transfer agent is configured to perform incremental distributions of the securities in accordance with the distribution instructions.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising:
tracking the number of securities designated by each of the plurality of
participants to be sold in the block; and

calculating an allocation of proceeds to each of the plurality of participants based on the number of securities designated by each of the plurality of participants to be sold in the block multiplied by an average block sales price per security.

34. (Currently Amended) A system for generating restricted security distribution instruction reports suitable for use by a transfer agent in a distribution of securities from a Venture Capitalist to a plurality of participants, the system comprising:

- at least one computer system associated with a facilitator;
- a database accessible by at least one client computer system;
- a database import module configured to import into the database distribution information received from an originating entity in electronic form, the distribution information including data indicating for respective participants in the distribution a name, an identification number, and a number of allocated securities;
- a participant matching module configured to match participants identified in the distribution information to participant information previously stored in the database;
- a participant contact association module configured to associate each participant in the distribution with a plurality of contacts from which instructions regarding the disposition of the securities allocated to the participant can be obtained;

a call queue module configured to indicate a plurality of contacts to be contacted to obtain distribution instructions for associated participants and sort the contacts in an order of urgency with contacts associated with more exigent items coming before contacts associated with less exigent items;

a contact module configured to facilitate contact of the plurality of contacts in the order of urgency and procure the distribution instructions;

at least one disposition module configured to store distribution instructions received from the plurality of contacts; and

a participant instruction report module configured to generate a report including received instructions for the participants, the report suitable for electronic transfer to the transfer agent.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, further comprising a scrubbing module configured to format the received information and to verify that required data fields are present prior to processing of the received information by the import module.

36. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the participant matching module is configured to:

identify previously stored records in the database containing matching identification numbers;

indicate differences between data in identified records and the distribution data received from the originating entity; and

indicate participants in the distribution for which no matching previously stored record was found.

37. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the call queue module is configured to dynamically indicate contacts for participants in the distribution and a contact status for the indicated contacts.

38. (Original) The system of claim 34, further comprising a contact detail module configured to, upon the selection of an indicated contact, indicate all open items for which the selected contact must be contacted.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the contact module is configured to prompt a human operator to contact the plurality of contacts and procure the distribution instructions.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the disposition module is further configured to allow a human operator to manually enter the distribution instructions procured from the plurality of contacts such that the distribution instructions can be stored.

41. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the participant instruction report module is configured to generate a report in response to the receipt of instructions for at least one participant.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the participant instruction report module is configured to generate incremental reports.

43. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the database comprises a plurality of tables including tables forming:

an allotment cluster configured to store information related to distribution tasks to be performed by the facilitator;

a participant cluster configured to store individual account level reference information;

a content cluster configured to store contact reference information; and

a project cluster configured to store information related to specific security distribution projects.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: no prior art was found which anticipates or renders obvious obtaining securities distribution instructions for a plurality of participants in a Venture Capitalist whereby a plurality of contacts are sorted in an order of urgency, and contacting the plurality of contacts in the order of urgency to obtain distribution instructions, such that contacts associated with more exigent items are contacted before contacts associated with less exigent items. Hence, the present invention provides an efficient method for obtaining securities distributions instructions for participants in a Venture Capitalist from respective contacts based on order of urgency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL R. ZECHER whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 3691

(571)270-3032. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00 alt. Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael R. Zecher/
Art Unit #3691

/Hani M. Kazimi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691